(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to take any action against them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) specific complaints received against any individuals are dealt with according to the laid down procedure.

Starvation death Vis-A-Vis Overflowing Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

1949. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the problem of peoples' starvation in many parts of the country, despite the FCI godowns overflowing with foodgrains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of people died for want to food, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to curb this magnitude of problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) there have been no report of starvation deaths from any State Govenment/UT administration.

The steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of foodgrains for the poor have been mentioned in the annexed Statement.

Statement

Details of measures taken by Govt. to make available the surplus stocks of foodgrains for the poor sections of the population

1.4.2000

(i) The entitlement for BPL families was raised from 10 kg. per family per month to 20 kg. per family per month from april 2000.

2.11.2000

(ii) It was decided to make foodgrains available at CIPs for BPL families for all welfare schemes, including SC/ST/OBC hostels scheme, implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.

(iii) It was decided to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for allotment to State Government @5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions, such as beggar homes, orphanages/Nari Niketans, etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India.

(iv) A decision was taken to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by Non-Government Orgnisations (NGOs), sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the World Food Programme.

1.12.2000

(v) The allocation of foodgrains for Below the Poverty Line (BPL) famlies was revised *w.e.f.* 1.12.2000 on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. As a result, the number of BPL familes eligible for subsidised foodgrains has increased from 5.96 crores families to 6.52 crore families.

25.12.2000

(vi) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana was announced for the one crore poorest of the poor BPL families. The scheme is now under implementation in all States/UTs. Each of the Antyodaya families is given 25 kg. of foodgrains @Rs.2 per kg. for wheat and Rs.3 per kg. for rice.

1.1.2001

(vii) The Food for work Programme was introduced in eight drought affected States in January, 2001 by the Ministry of Rural Development. Under FFW the foodgrains are allocated to State Governments free of cost. The programme has been subsequently extended to cover floods and other national calamities. From January, 2001 till 7.3.2002 39.33 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under FFW have been allotted to 11 States.

29.1.2001

(viii) The Government of India allocated one lakh MTs of foodgrains for distribution in the earthquake-affected area of Gujarat on 29 January 2001.

1.5.2001

(ix) It was decided to make additional allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates of drought affected States for distribution to all the drought affected families (BPL & APL) @20 kg per family per month for a period of three months in the current financial year. The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have already been allocated additional foodgrains aggregating 19.53 lakh tonnes. The Govt. of Bihar has been given additional allocation of 1.80 lakh MTs of wheat at BPL rate for flood relief.

12.7.2001

(x) The entitlement for BPL families was raised from 20kg. per family per month to 25 kg. per family per month.

(xi) The Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice for APL families was reduced and BPL/CIPs retained as under which will be valid till 31.3.2002.

(Rs. per quintal)

	BPL	APL
Wheat	415	610
Rice	565	830

15.8.2001

(xii) The Prime Minister announced the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) on 15th August 2001. The Scheme was lunched by the Ministry of Rural Development on 25.9.2001. Under the programme, it is envisaged to utilize 50 lakh MTs of foodgrains every year. The allocation of foodgrains undr SGRY upto 6.3.2002 has been 30.82 lakh MTs.

2. Besides the above measures, the Government is distributing foodgrains free of cost/at subsidized BPL rates under a number of welfare schemes like Annapurna, Mid-day-Meal Scheme and supply of foodgrains to SC/ST/OBC. hostels.

Increase in total offtake of foodgrains

3. The offtake of wheat and rice from the Central Pool during the first 10 months of the current financial year, 2001-02, was 230.25 lakh tonnes as against 136.83 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period of the last financial year, *i.e.*, 2000-01, thus registering an increase of 68.27%. The total increase in the offtake of foodgrains under TPDS during this period has been 10.98 lakh tonnes. The increase in the open market sales (domestic) has been 32.82 lakh tonnes, while the increase under welfare schemes has been 22.09 lakh tonnes.

It may also be pointed out that there has been a significant increase in offtake in respect of BPL as may be seen below:

(figures in lakh tonnes)

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (upto 28.2.2002)
BPL	59.71	69.94	95.96	99.28

Tenders for storage of foodgrains

†1950. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders were invited for storage of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether tenders have also been received from foreign companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are reviewing credibility and functional efficiency of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) RITES, on behalf of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has issued global tenders in December 2001 inviting Requests for Qualification (RFQ) for development and operation of bulk grain handling, storage and transportation facilitites on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.

(b) and (c) The details of bidders are not known because the last date or submission of RFQ is 28th March, 2002.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.